DURHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LIBRARY

HEALTH DEPT,
Byland Lodge,
Durham.

To the Chairman & Members of the
Durham Rural District Council.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1946.

Although I was not in charge during the period, I am satisfied that the statistics drawn up in the Health Department are accurate and show that the health of the District was fully maintained during 1946.

I am,

Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

January 28th. 1948.

D.D.NICHOL. B.S.,M.B.,D.P.H.,B.Hy.

Medical Officer of Health.

DURHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Health Department,
Byland Lodge,
Durham.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Durham Rural District Council.

Lady & Gentlemen,

Annual Report for 1946.

The Annual Report for the year 1946 is compiled on lines similar to the immediately preceding Annual Reports, and is to deal with the most essential and important matters.

VITAL STATISTICS:

During the year 1946, the health of the District as revealed by the Vital Statistics was maintained at a satisfactory level.

The death-rate was 10.6 per 1,000 of the population, as against 11.43 for the preceding year. This is the lowest death-rate recorded for the District, the previous being for the year 1942 when this rate was 10.9. This compares favourably with a rate of 11.5 for England and Wales as a whole.

There was an increase in the birth-rate which was 22.57 per 1000 inhabitants, compared with 18.92 for the previous year. This is the highest rate on record for the District, the previous highest being in 1944 when it was 20.47 per 1,000. This rate still maintains a higher level than that for the whole country which was 19.63.

During the year 36 children under one year of age died, giving a rate of 50 per 1,000 live births. This shows an increase on 44 for 1945, but compares favourably with the rate for 1944 which was 66. This rate is unsatisfactory compared with the infant mortality rate of 43 for England and Wales. The rate for the Administrative County of Durham for 1946 was, 49 per 1,000 live births.

The causes of death in these children were:
Broncho-pneumonia 11, Prematurity and Convulsion 6 each, Acute Bronchitis 5, Diarrhoea 3, and Exhaustion, Congenital Heart Disease, Congestion of the Lungs, Cerebral Thrombosis and Asphyxia, one each.

Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	0	1
Diphtheria	0	1	1
Pulmonory Tuberculosis	6	8	14
Non-Pulmonory Tuberculosis	2	2	4
Syphilitic Diseases	1	0	1
Influenza	1	2	3
Measles	1	0	1
Cancer	26	17	43
Diabetes	0	2	2
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	16	15	31
Heart Disease	44	50	94
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	2	5
Bronchitis	10	9	19
Pneumonia	7	6	13
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	4	6
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	4	0	4
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	1	3
Other Digestive Diseases	4	4	8
Nephritis	7	3	10
Maternal Causes	0	2	2
Premature Birth	3	3	6
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury and Infant Diseases.	6	7	13
Suicide	3	0	3
Road Traffic Accidents	1	0	1
Other Violent Causes	12	2	14
All other causes	22	13	35
Totals	184	153	337

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

Scarlet Fever	27
Diphtheria	17
Enteric Fever	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5
Erysipilos	7
Pneumonia	28
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	1
Measles	96
Whooping Cough	48
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	23
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	13
Total.	275

During the year Scarlet Fever occurred in all parts of the District 27 cases being notified, this being a large and satisfactory decrease from the previous year, when 62 notifications were received. The infecting organism appears to be of a low virulence and the clinical manifestations have been mild, with no deaths resulting.

There was also a satisfactory decrease in the number of cases of Diphtheria, 17 being notified compared with 29 during 1945. The majority of these cases occurred in the first and fourth quarters. The localities affected were:-
Framwellgate Moor, Kimblesworth and Witton Gilbert, 3 each; Belmont and Ludworth, 2each; Bearpark, Coxhoe, Sherburn and West Rainton, one each. One death occurred from diphtheria, the patient being 20 years of age and had not been immunised. In reviewing the ages of the patients infected it is significant that a high proportion were over school age, there being 8 cases out of 17 in persons over 15 years of age. This appears to give further evidence of the results of immunisations carried out during the past few years. During the year 248 children were immunised, 192 being under 5years of age, and 56 between 5 and 15 years. This results in 55% of the under 5 years being immunised and 88% of the five to fifteen group. The percentage of children immunised under five years remains unsatisfactory, but regarding children of school age it is most satisfactory, and to maintain this level regular campaigns will need to be carried out.

Measles showed a marked decrease, 96 cases being notified as against 246 in 1945. The largest number of cases occurred during the fourth quarter when 54 notifications were received. The localities affected were:- Witton Gilbert 23, Croxdale 20, Belmont 18, Kimblesworth 10, Sherburn 9, West Rainton 7, Bearpark 4, Shadforth 3, and Framwellgate Moor 2. One death from Measles and its complications was recorded.

SANITARY INSPECTION:

Sanitary Inspection of the District was maintained during the year and the following is a summary of Informal and Formal Notices Served:-

	Informal Notices.	Formal Notices.	Nuisances Abated.
Dwelling Houses:-			
Structural Defects.	33	6	29
Cowsheds	1	0	1
Ashpits and Privies	1	0	1
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	2	0	2
Water Closets	6	3	8
Defective Yard Paving	1	0	1
House Drainage(Defective Traps	3	0	3
Other Faults	10	3	13
Water Supply	1	0	1
Animals Improperly Kept	3	0	3
Offensive Trades	1	0	1
Smoke Nuisances	2	0	0
Stagnant Water	0	2	0
Defective Dustbins	7	1	6
No Coalhouse	1	0	-
Dirty House	5	0	4
	77	15	74

During the year 72 houses were disinfected after Infectious Diseases.

The following quantity of unwholesome food was condemned and voluntarily surrendered during the year.

English Meat.	Beaf.	1cwt.	12lbs.
	Bacon.	3Stone.	8¼lb.
	Ham.	3Stone.	6½lbs.
Imported Meat.	Beef.	2cwt.	31lbs.
	Lamb.	19lb.	
	Raisins.	30lbs.	
	Shredded Wheat.	30lbs.	
	Quaker Wheat.	1 lb.	
Tinned Goods.	Treacle Pudding.	9 TINS.	TINS
	Sweet Pudding.	43 TINS.	"
	Evaporated Milk.	5 TINS.	"
	Bartlett Pears.	2 TINS.	"
	Red Plums.	2 TINS.	"
	Tomatoes.	1 TINS	"
	Apricots.	2 TINS.	"
	Apples.	2 TINS.	"
	Salmon.	4 TINS.	"
	Baked Beans.	13 TINS.	"
	Pilchards.	15 TINS.	"
	Stewed Steak.	3 lbs.	
	Chopped Ham.	3 lbs.	
	Vienna Sausages.	2 lbs.	
	Brisket of Beef.	8 lbs.	
	Pork Luncheon Meat.	5 lbs.	

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL:

During the year under review, the main outfall from the Sir John Priestman Hospital to Brasside Sewage Disposal Works was completed. The septic tank at the Hospital and the Stockly Heugh Sewage Disposal Works, which were in a very poor condition and gave rise to a nuisance, have therefore been dismantled and filled in.

The water supply at Town Kelloe taken over by the Council as an emergency measure has now been taken over by the Durham County Water Board, who are supplying water from the reservoir at Quarrington Hill.

A new dosing syphon was fitted at Kelloe Sewage Disposal Works and there has been considerable improvement in the standard of the affluent.

Everything possible has been done during the year to maintain and improve the standard of the affluent from the various Sewage Disposal Works in the District.

The supplies of water under the control of the Council have been maintained.

HOUSING:

During the year, in response to a request from the Ministry of Health a census of Houses and House Inspection were carried out with the following results:-

Census:- No of persons occupying condemned houses.....418
No of tenants being in overcrowded condidtion.....182
No of double tenants.....1187

House Inspection:-

Catagory 1.No of houses found satisfactory in all respects.....5096
2.No,of houses showing minor defects.....1248
3.No of houses requiring structural alteration or improvement.....1705
4.No of houses appropriate for reconditioning and the Housing (Rural Workers) Act.... NIL
5.Unfit for Habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost.....300

Attention is drawn to the large number of condemned houses standing in most localities in the District in various stages of disintegration adn attempt should be made to have these sites cleared with a view to improving the general amenities of the District.

During the year 54 prefabricated houses were erected at West-Rainton and 32 Traditional houses were completed at Kelloe, two houses were also built by private enterprise.

Initial works for the construction of Council Houses were commenced in the following localities:- Bearpark 20 houses, Pity Me 48 houses, Quarrington Hill 26 houses, Sherburn 62 houses, and Witton Gilbert 56 houses.

The Council suffered a severe loss at the end of the year by the death of Dr. Kinlock Falconer, who had given valuable service for a period of nearly 21 years.

I am,

Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D.D.NICHOL. B.S.,M.B.,D.P.H.,B.H.y.

January 28th. 1948.

Medical Officer of Health.